

HETCHY CAVE-IN KILLS WORKER

Body of Man Buried Alive
Found After Two Hours'
Digging; Probe Launched

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SAN MATEO, Feb. 20.—One man was killed and several others narrowly escaped injury today when a Hetch-Hetchy water project diversion tunnel five miles west of here at Crystal Springs dam caved in.

The dead man was Felix Hopkins, 22, 1102 Van Ness Avenue, South San Francisco.

Hopkins, fellow workers told Coroner William Crosby, was buried alive in a huge mass of sliding dirt, which had been loosened by the recent rains.

BODY RECOVERED AFTER TWO HOURS

The fellow workers who were near the slide and escaped injury, frantically dug at the mass of earth in which they knew Hopkins was buried. It was more than two hours after the slide at 5 a. m. that the body was brought out of the tunnel.

Hopkins was taken to Mills Memorial Hospital, but he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Coroner Crosby, after taking charge of the body, went immediately to the scene of the cave-in, where he started an investigation.

WORK HALTED FOR REPAIR OF DAMAGE

Work was halted on the tunnel, under construction as a diversion unit of the Hetch-Hetchy water project for San Francisco, until the damage caused by the cave-in could be repaired.

The McDonald-Kahn Construction Company is constructing the tunnel, and Hopkins was employed by that concern, Robert F. Royden, of San Mateo, one of the workers who helped dig Hopkins out, told the coroner. The tunnel is located under Skyline Boulevard.

Death Premonition Revealed by Widow

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 21.—Mrs. Maris Hopkins had a premonition of the Hetch Hetchy tunnel cave-in at Crystal Springs Dam which took the life of her husband, Felix, she said today.

Hiding her grief, she described her anxiety over her husband's work.

"I had a hunch," she said, "so he stayed at home Sunday night. There was some kind of accident in the tunnel, but no one was hurt. Then he went to work again, and it happened."

Mrs. Hopkins' usual nervousness over her husband's work was enhanced early yesterday when he failed to come home. Word came that he had been seriously injured, and a call to Mills Memorial Hospital revealed his death.

Beside the widow, a 16-months-old daughter, Geraldine, survives.

Widow of Cave-in Victim Wins Award

SAN FRANCISCO, April 22.—A compensation award of \$5038 has been made to Mrs. Marie Hopkins, 20, widow of Felix Hopkins, 23, killed in a cave-in of the Crystal Springs Dam tunnel, in San Mateo

County, last February 20, T. A. Reardon, chairman of the State Industrial Accident Commission, announced today.

The commission will hear charges of wilful misconduct against the contractors on the tunnel, McDonald and Kahn. If they are sustained, the contractors will be penalized \$2445, which will be paid Mrs. Hopkins.